UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/748,125	12/27/2000	Matthew Rozek	088305/0132	4154

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _09 November 2005_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-22_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This final office action is in response to the amendment filed 9 November 2005.

2.   Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1 and 18-20 are independent claims. The

rejection of claims 21-22 have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Ricker et al. ("XML and EDI- Peaceful Co-Existence," 3 Marcy 2000,

available from www.archive.org, hereafter Ricker) and further in view of Puckett (US

5572,670, filed 10 January 1994).

As per independent claim 1, Ricker discloses a computer implemented process

for tracking inbound documents received from trading patterns in a business-to-

business electronic commerce system, the process comprising:

- (a) Receiving an inbound document from a trading partner at a translator (Figure
  9)

- (b) The translator checking compliance of the document for translation from a
  source format to a desired target format (Figure 9)

- (c) Attempting translation of the document and detecting errors in the translation

    (page 8: Here, the translation is performed using an X12 dictionary. The

    translation is then checked to ensure that the data is complete and accurate)

Ricker fails to specifically disclose:

- Capturing data errors to a database

- Extracting data from the received document and using it to provide a document

    identifier, and saving the document identifier to a database as an index for the

    error data, the document identifier correlated to the received document

However, Puckett discloses:

- Capturing data errors to a database (column 2, lines 60-67)

- Extracting data from the received document and using it to provide a document

    identifier, and saving the document identifier to a database as an index for the

    error data, the document identifier correlated to the received document (column

    3, lines 4-12: Here, the header is a document identifier grouping the error events)

    It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have combined Ricker's process with Puckett's process, since it

would have allowed a user to interpret and categorize error conditions (Puckett: column

2, lines 14-20).

    As per dependent claim 2, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker further discloses

the process wherein step (b) comprises attempting recognition of syntax formats within

a document data stream for compliance with configured formats, and configuring the

translator (page 8).

As per dependent claim 6, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further

discloses that when an error is detected, it is processed and the document data stream

is returned to (Figure 3, steps 304 and 308).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's

process, since it would have allowed a user easily maintain a log of errors.

As per dependent claim 7, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further

discloses errors are detected at the stage of a mapping process in which a field of a

target document is not populated because the errors are detected before the event

records have been encoded as tuples (Figure 3, steps 304 and 308).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's

process, since it would have allowed a user ensure that non-compliant data is not

translated.

As per dependent claim 11, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further

discloses that step d) comprises extracting data from both a document's enveloping

information and from within the document (col. 3, lines 5-7, "These events can be errors

in the storage system or simply routine observations about the storage system").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's

process, since it would have allowed a user to ensure the correspondence between

detected errors and the document.

As per dependent claim 12, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further

discloses a process wherein error data is captured by writing values to variables in

memory, and subsequently saving said values to the tracking database referenced to

the internal document identifiers (Fig. 3, items 308-316, Fig. 3 details how tuples are

stored in a metalanguage (which must occur in variables), and then outputted to a

database).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's

process, since it would have allowed a user store information.

As per dependent claim 13, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 12, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further

discloses the use of a variable that upon assignment of a subsequent value said

subsequent value is treated as a valid variable value (Fig. 3, item 308, the information is

translated into a tuple). However, Puckett fails to disclose the use of a temporary

variable that can only reference a single value. However, it was notoriously well known

in the art at the time of the invention that variables that reference only one value are useful because they can be used to represent single pieces of information of particular import.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's process, since it would have allowed a user to preserve memory resources.

As per dependent claim 14, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 12, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further discloses a process wherein the memory variables include a list variable which can reference a plurality of values (Figure 3, item 308: Here, the converter operates on tuples which involve a plurality of values).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's process, since it would have allowed a user to group related values (Puckett: column 3, lines 4-12).

As per dependent claim 15, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 12, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further discloses a process wherein error data is mapped to said variables according to mapping rules (Figure 3, item 312: Here is a translation process, which involves a mapping according to mapping rules.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's

process, since it would have allowed a user to group related values (Puckett: column 3, lines 4-12).

As per dependent claim 16, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 15, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further discloses a process, wherein each variable has a label (variables inherently must have labels for a program to operate on them), and referencing a label of a variable in a mapping rule declares said variable (in col. 4, lines 10, referencing tuples activates the tuple and therefore must declare it).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's process, since it would have allowed a user to group related values (Puckett: column 3, lines 4-12).

As per dependent claim 17, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Puckett further discloses a process wherein step c) comprises generating an error code indicating the nature of the error, there being a pre-stored set of error codes and associated descriptions (col. 6, lines 15-42 Puckett describes the generation of the error codes and the predetermined language used to do so.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Puckett's process, since it would have allowed a user to further process the error codes into a human readable form (Puckett: column 2, lines 12-35).

As per independent claim 18, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claims 1, 12-15, and 17. Claim 18 is similarly rejected under Ricker and Puckett.

As per independent claim 19, the applicant discloses an electronic commerce system that comprises means for performing the process of claim 1. Claim 19 is similarly rejected under Ricker and Puckett.

As per independent claim 20, the applicant discloses a computer program encoded on a computer-readable medium designed to perform the process of claim 1. Claim 20 is similarly rejected under Ricker and Puckett.

5.   Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker and Puckett, and further in view of Dysart et al. (USPN 6,708,166 B1—filing date 5/11/2000, herein Dysart), and further in view of Casper et al. (USPN 5,526,484—filing date 12/10/1992, herein Casper).

As per dependent claim 3, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker and Puckett fail to specifically disclose a process wherein step c) comprises parsing the received inbound document field-by-field and, for each field, checking the string byte size and delimiter characters. However, Dysart, discloses field-by-field parsing in order to allow more exact control over search processing (col. 16, lines 35-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate field-by-field parsing as in Dysart into Ricker and Puckett, in order to allow more exact control over search processing.

Further, Casper describes processing which involves string byte checking and delimiter characters in order to successfully frame commands (col. 16, lines 5-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use string byte checking and delimiter characters in the manner of Casper in the context of Ricker, Puckett, and Dysart in order to successfully frame commands.

6.   Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker, Puckett, Dysart, and Casper, and further in view of Dowling (USPN 6,157,988—filing date 12/23/1997).

As per dependent claim 4, Ricker, Puckett, Dysart, and Casper disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 3, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. However, Ricker, Puckett, Dysart, and Casper fail to specifically disclose a process wherein step c) further comprises checking sequence of fields against allowable record field groupings including required, optional, or conditional fields. However, Dowling, describes the classification and checking of field types including required, optional, and conditional in order to help organize fields (col. 16, lines 43-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the classification and checking of field types in the manner of

Dowling in the context of Ricker, Puckett, Dysart, and Casper including required,

optional, and conditional in order to help organize fields.

7.   Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker

and Puckett, and further in view of Casper.

As per dependent claim 5, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker and Puckett fail

to specifically disclose a process in which the translator generates error data in step c)

for field character set, character size, and delimiters and continues translation

processing. However, Casper, discloses error data that a processing unit generates

error information when analyzing a frame which encompasses a character set,

character size, and delimiters in order to prevent erroneous processing of frame

contents (col. 11, lines 1-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to generate error information in the manner of Casper in the context of Ricker

and Puckett in order to prevent erroneous processing of frame contents.

8.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker

and Puckett, and further in view of Rusterholz et al. (USPN 4,945,479—filing date

7/31/1985, herein Rusterholz).

As per dependent claim 8, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 7, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker and Puckett fail

to specifically disclose that the translation process is aborted if a target document field

is not populated. However, Rusterholz describes a translation process in which a

requirement of the process to avoid abortion of the process is that the translation needs

to be populated because it is on the same register (col. 66, lines 5-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to abort if a target document field is not populated in the manner of Rusterholz

in the context of Ricker and Puckett in order to allow verification of valid entries.

9.   Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker

and Puckett, and further in view of Loebig (USPN 5,406,563—filing date 8/6/1993).

As per dependent claim 9, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to

those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker and Puckett fail

to specifically disclose a process wherein step c) comprises identifying errors after

construction of a target document and output of said document through a stream.

However, Loebig, discloses stream processing of documents in order to monitor errors

in document processing (Abstract, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to process documents through a stream in the context of Puckett in the

manner of Loebig in order to monitor errors in document processing.

10.   Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker,

Puckett, Loebig, and further in view of Casper.

As per dependent claim 10, the claim is essentially equivalent to claim 5 in that field attribute, truncation, and character set errors are generated in claim 5, and rejecting claim 10 is merely a manner of identifying them after construction of the document, which would have been obvious because they would have already been generated.

11.   Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker and Puckett, and further in view of Yang (US 6530039, filed 14 June 1999).

As per dependent claim 21, Ricker and Puckett disclose the limitations similar to those in claim 1, and the same rejection is incorporated herein. Ricker and Puckett fail to specifically disclose the step of identifying error data corresponding to the inbound document from the trading partner and provide information to the trading partner based on the identified error data. However, Yang discloses identifying error data corresponding to the inbound document from the trading partner and provides information to the trading partner based on the identified error data (column 9, table: Here, if a translation fails, an error message is generated informing a user that the translation does not work).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker and Puckett's process with Hamlin's process, since it would have allowed a user to receive notification of errors (Yang: column 9, table).

As per dependent claim 22, the applicant discloses the limitations similar to those in claim 21. Claim 22 is similarly rejected under Ricker, Puckett, and Yang.

Response to Arguments

12.   Applicant's arguments filed 9 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claim 1, the applicant argues that neither Ricker nor Puckett disclose, "*error data detected in the translation* are captured to a tracking database (page 8)." The examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed in the Office Action (OA) dated 11 August 2005, Puckett discloses capturing data errors to a database (column 2, lines 60-67; OA: page 3). However, the examiner does recognize that Puckett does not specifically disclose storing translation error data. Ricker is relied upon to disclose translation errors (page 8). A document is verified to ensure that it is compliant with the messaging format (page 8). Only verified data will be passed to the translator in order to ensure complete and accurate information (page 8). This inherently discloses that non-verified information will be culled and an error generated. Ricker's inherent error generation is then combined with Puckett's teaching of an error database capable of associating a document identifier with the error (column 2, line 60- column 3, line 12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Ricker's process with Puckett's process, since it would have allowed a user to interpret and categorize error conditions (Puckett: column 2, lines 14-20).

With respect to claims 11 and 12, the applicant argues that the examiner is trying

to equate errors within the storage system or observations within the storage systems

with translation errors (page 9). The examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed

above, the examiner has explained how Ricker and Puckett disclose obtaining

transformation errors in a database. Further, with respect to obtaining document

identifiers, Puckett teaches extracting header information for grouping of error events.

13.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-22 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

As disclosed above, the Yang reference has been added to address the

applicant's amended claim limitations.

Conclusion

14.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

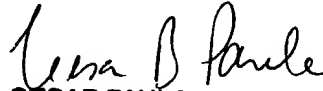than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-

4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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PRIMARY EXAMINER